GRC

The NASA Glenn Research Center Macintosh User Group

Volume 1, Issue 6 December, 2000

Table of Contents

Officers

Melissa McGuire
President
Melissa.L.Mcguire@grc.nasa.gov

Ward Souders
Vice President
Ward.Souders@grc.nasa.gov

Lisa Madden
Secretary/Editor
Lisa.Madden@grc.nasa.gov

Michael Mills
NASA Apple Rep
mills.m@apple.com

We're baaaaaccckkkk!

Sorry for the long absence. Between Ward having surgery, me having surgery, and Melissa getting married, the last few months have been well, let's say, keeping us occupied! But, all that is behind us now, and we're ready to get the ball rolling again. Thank you to everyone for your continued patience.

We finally have a meeting date set up for our next GMUG meeting! — **January 31, 2001.**

We also have a new Apple Rep, **Michael Mills**, who will be joining us to go over the MacWorld Expo (which will be history by that time) as well as some hands on details of OS X, OS X server, and the transition to this new OS environment. Some topics of discussion may include security issues, authenticated login issues, system access issues, restrictions, getting your applications to run, etc. But, we need your input. What concerns do you have about OS X, and the possibility of having to log into your Mac?

In the meantime, since we have a little while to plan the agenda, we'd like to ask for suggestions from our user group. What would you like Apple to show us? Michael has already visited Langley and will be going to Ames before coming to visit with us, so he's already working with the ODIN desktop folks at the other centers and has a feel for our environment. He probably knows more about it then we, the Mac users, do!

Send emails to any of the user group officers, and we will put together an agenda that answers your questions.

Until then, mark your calendars:
WHEN: January 31, 2001 (Wednesday)
10am - noon = MacWorld Expo recap
afternoon = OS X, OS X server, questions, etc.
[We've got him all day, so let's make the most of it.]
WHERE: Main Auditorium, Bldg. 3.

—Lisa Madden, editor

President's Corner

The changing face of Macs at NASA Glenn Research Center

Melissa McGuire
December 7, 2000

Time for another letter from your President. It's been two months to the date that I got married, and pretty much lost focus on the Mac Users Group. I assure you that I have been working behind the scenes to keep up with things. But it's time for anther MUG get together.

As ODIN comes in full swing with the desktop environment here, things might change. I don't want to see the Mac users lose their experience with their Macintoshes, so I am working with the folks at ACS who are in charge of making and implementing decisions to make sure we don't lose out.

To that end, I want you all to take a good hard look at the way you use your Macs. We'll be working this issue through the next month or so, and I am going to need your help. Get ready to defend how you do what you do with your Macs.

Until then, have the happiest of holiday seasons. I hope you and your family are together, happy, healthy and ready for a wonderful New Year.

—Melissa McGuire, President

GMUG Outside

Just wanted to get the word out that I have finally found a place to host a version of our MUG pages that can be seen from outside the center. Tell your friends, tell your family!

Head on over to:

http://GMUG.grc.nasa.gov/
or
http://GMUG.lerc.nasa.gov/

and check it out. Feel free to send any comments my way (like if I have broken a link in the transfer.)

The restricted pages still work and contain information specific to here on lab (like SME/ODIN, RAS, etc). That information will not be made available on the public pages.

A special thanks to Sun for their making a Mac-friendly workstation. This public page is being hosted on a Sun workstation, while being written and updated on my Mac. Very nice.

—Melissa McGuire, President

Check us out on the web!

http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/
WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/
or
http://GMUG.grc.nasa.gov

Apple Activates Science & Technology Page

I am pleased to tell you that Apple has activated its Science and Technology page at apple.com.

http://www.apple.com/scitech

There will not be a formal announcement for awhile, but I have been asked to spread the word now. If you manage a Website or have input to one, a link would be appreciated. If you are a member of any electronic discussion groups, a post there would also be appreciated. Send e-mail to your colleagues.

This site will grow and be refreshed.

Official feedback instructions.

1. Go to the bottom of the scitech home page shown above.
2. Above the copyright notice, is a link "Contact us". Go there.
3. Scroll all the way to the bottom of this contact page to where it says
        "feedback" That's the scitech mailto: link.

Let us know what you think on that channel.

—
John Martellaro
Senior Marketing Manager
Science & Technology Markets
Apple Computer, Inc.
1 Infinite Loop, MS: 111-HOM
Cupertino, CA 95014-2084
p: 303.573.5070
f: 303.573.5069
m: 303.888.3312
 martellaro@apple.com

Apple Eyes CD-RW Drives for Macs

From: "Shane Anderson" <shane@macevangelist.com>
Date: Fri, 08 Dec 2000 23:17:42 +1100

The Mac maker is scrambling to get ahead of consumer demand for recordable CD and DVD media.

After admitting that it "missed the boat" in adopting recordable CD technology for its hardware, Apple Computer Inc. is reportedly looking at options for incorporating CD-ReWritable drives into the next crop of Macs.

To date, Apple (Nasdaq: AAPL) has focused on putting DVD drives into its computers and giving people the ability to play or edit video. However, consumers are showing a greater desire for CD-RW drives, which let them burn music CDs.

http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,2662457,00.html

Blue Man Group Powered By MACS
and Marshmallows

You may have seen a recent Intel commercial featuring three strange men who are, well, completely blue. The much-celebrated Blue Man Group has been doing its rollicking "mimes from space" schtick for years now, but it was a little surprising to see them show up in an Intel (read: Windows processor chip) commercial.

Y'see, when it comes to running its complicated live show, the Blue Man Group relies on Macs.

http://www.apple.com/creative/stories/blueman/

Setting up Home Network

Check out this link for instructions on how to set up a computer network at home:

http://www.macmobile.com/homenetwork/products.html#routerhw

Setting up Web Page using Applescript

Date: Thu, 14 Dec 2000 18:34:39 +0100
From: Bert Altenburg <bsfa@knoware.nl>

Vittorio and I have finished the third issue of MacScripter's Magazine, an interactive tutorial on AppleScript. As a road warrior, you'll probably come along PC people who need to be converted. Here's how to do it: Show them how to create a web page with a single push on a button.

Pictures in a folder are automatically converted into thumbnails. The simple web page carries these thumbnails and provides links to the big pictures. If the pictures contained text in the Get info box, this text is displayed next to the thumbnails.

To create the thumbnails, the tutorial (which is a stand-alone project) uses PixelPipe, which is free for non-commercial purposes.

Enjoy your Mac, and if you impress PC people or make any converts because of this, let me know!

The mag can be downloaded from:

http://macscripter.net
or
http://www.macinstruct.com

Older Macintosh Schematics Link

Need schematics on an older Macintosh computer and don't know where to go? Well, now you do! Check out this link and find schamatics for Macs from the original Macintosh to the SE/30.

http://home.t-online.de/home/andreas.kann/schemat.html

Apple Stimulates Scientific Computing

Dr. Viktor Decyk
Apple <http://www.apple.com/>

Particle simulation of plasma has always required the world's most powerful computers. That's why, at UCLA's Plasma Simulation Group, we've been active in high-performance computing for nearly 30 years.

Since its introduction, the Macintosh has been a big part of our efforts. At first, we used the Mac for word processing and graphics (it was too slow for scientific calculations). Then two years ago, this picture changed dramatically. We discovered, quite by accident, that the Power Mac G3 was twice as fast as the current IBM workstation we had been using. Of course, this got our attention.

Parallel Computing for Productivity

We began asking ourselves what Macintosh could do for us in the realm of scientific computing and wondered if we could use it for parallel computing. This would enable us to combine the legendary productivity of the Mac with the power of a supercomputer.

More here:

http://www.apple.com/scitech/research/decyk/

Copernic

A couple of weeks ago, I noted that Copernic would cease Mac support. After my post, it was noted that they had removed the Mac download page from their site. In the meantime, I learned about RetrieveIt!, which is a nice app., as well as Glooton, a free French app. which does Copernic things a bit differently, but works well.

Today, thanks to an article on MacCentral, I found that someone has begun a petition to save Copernic and found that Copernic can be downloaded from CNET. The URLs below worked for me, and I hope that many of you will be able to use them as well.

http://www.maccentral.com/news/0011/21.copernic.shtml
http://download.cnet.com/downloads/0-10202-101-914471.html
[click on "Publisher's Site"]

http://209.132.33.22/copernic99-mac.bin

Cool Sites

Apple CPU Plugin 2.7 (Update 12/18/2000) for Dual Processor PowerMac G4s
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9551

Panic Audion 2.0 (Shareware 12/18/2000) audio player/encoder for CDs, MP3 & streaming net audio
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=546

Archive 4.6 (Shareware 12/18/2000) powerful disk catalog and file management solution
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=471

Avernum 2 1.0 (Shareware 12/18/2000) classic fantasy role-playing game
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=7712

Cadmover 5.5.3 (Update 12/18/2000) translates vector files to/from drawing programs and CADD formats
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=771

CDFinder 3.0 (Shareware 12/18/2000) creates catalog files to search & organize data on CDs, floppies, Zip...
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=837

Ch-ching 3.1r4 (Update 12/18/2000) ecommerce solution builds an online store
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=851

Chucky's Jammin' Downhill Adventure 1.0 (Freeware 12/18/2000) sled riding holiday game
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9544

Ghetto Games 1.0 (Freeware 12/18/2000) collection of simple games
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9547

Lurk Webcam browser 4.1 (Freeware 12/18/2000) View webcams on top of all other programs
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9212

McCover 1.0 (Freeware 12/18/2000) tool to create covering wheels for lotteries
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9545

MDG Web Server 4D 3.5b14 (Update 12/18/2000) integrated relational database & server software
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=2796

More Cool Sites

Nu Font Pack 1.5 (Shareware 12/18/2000) fonts based on Apple's Espy fonts for easy on screen reading
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=3199

Pads 2.0 (Shareware 12/18/2000) Note Pad/Stickies replacement
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=8318

Pandora 1.0 (Commercial 12/18/2000) native PDF imposition product for prepress packaging & labels
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=7978

POV-Ray 3.1gr2 (Freeware 12/18/2000) high quality raytracer tool for creating 3D graphics
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=3516

Quick4D 1.6.1 (Shareware 12/18/2000) Tool to access/update 4th Dimension databases
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=8780

Scientific Journal Information 2.3 (Freeware 12/18/2000) database of scientific journals
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9546

ShuffleWorx 1.3 (Freeware 12/18/2000) high performance text editor
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9548

Style 1.8 (Shareware 12/18/2000) styled text editor: scriptable, recordable, attachable
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=4301

Temple Tantrum 1.0.1 (Shareware 12/18/2000) exploration, arcade-type game
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9538

Tri-CATALOG 4.0 (Commercial 12/18/2000) auto scans media and catalogs it
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=4607

Web Devil 5.1 (Shareware 12/18/2000) download web pages for offline browsing
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=4851

WhitePine eXodus 7.1.1 (Commercial 12/18/2000) provides access to many X Window apps
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=4917

Yahoo Mailto Handler 1.1.1 (Freeware 12/18/2000) redirects mailto: links to a Yahoo send-mail page
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9535

USB: "USUALLY SUPER, BUT..."

The Universal System Bus was a great idea when it debuted a few years back, and still is (though it will probably eventually be superceded by Firewire). Through USB, you can have external devices like CD-Burners, digital cameras and hard drives which you can "hot-swap." That is, you don't have to turn your computer off to plug them in or unplug them. The System is constantly scanning for new devices and will "see" them when you plug them in, assuming the right drivers are in place. This was a big improvement over SCSI, or PC's Parallel Ports, which require you to shut down the computer before plugging or unplugging any devices. (Note to those of you still using SCSI devices: it's absolutely hazardous to not turn off your Mac before changing connections.)

Like most things, however, USB is subject to conflicts and flakiness and sometimes you may find that you've got something that gets along less than amicably with your system.

If it seems like your system is freezing and the culprit is a new USB device, try booting up the computer without that device plugged into the USB port and then plug it in after the system has fired up.

If you've got an incompatible USB device, a complaint call to the manufacturer is also highly recommended. Compatibility of Mac hardware has always been a cornerstone of the Apple community. It's harder to police, though, in the converging PC world of USB and Firewire.

Techno Music Here (Hear) at Glenn

Check out this site to hear some of the music one of our Help Desk personnel (Aaron Egnor) has been making when he is not at Glenn taking your calls!

http://www.mp3.com/martyrcomplex/

Internet Call-Waiting for MAC

Nortel/eXtremeVoice's Internet Call Waiting for Mac is moving rapidly through its Beta stage of development, and we expect to release the final compile of ICW by the end of next week! This will still be unsupported, until we get enough Mac users and perhaps a retail partner, but it's a major step.

I would like to thank all our dedicated alpha and beta testers in the Mac community who gave us feedback. (You can still download the FREE beta at

http://concepts.extremevoice.com/macclient/)

I do, however, have another request for help from the Mac dial-up community in general. We need to gather information on disconnect delays, and how they relate to user's configurations. If you have 3 minutes that you can spare, and a Mac with a dial-up modem, you can help us out. Simply follow the instructions and fill out the form at:

http://concepts.extremevoice.com/macclient/survey/

This will go a long way in helping us build a better product for the Mac!

Thanks!

Tom Friesen
Internet Call Waiting for Mac Team
Internet Application Development, eXtremeVoice
Nortel Networks, Ottawa
ICWMacClient@eXtremeVoice.com